

Hawaii MARINE

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From Kaneohe Bay to Fallujah

1/3 treks into Iraq

Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook
1 Marine Expeditionary Force

FALLUJAH, Iraq — As other units around the world deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II, the Marines with 1/3 patiently waited for their turn. However, the last time their battalion deployed for a combat operation was during Desert Storm/Desert Shield.

Looking back as they sit in the city of Fallujah for Operation Al Fajr, the Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment never thought they'd be where they are today.

"When I found out I got orders to Hawaii, my mom told my wife not to worry because the 3rd Marines never go anywhere," said Staff Sgt. Luis Lopez, the 3rd Platoon sergeant for Company C.

In a turn of events, 1/3 was attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and left for Okinawa July 7. They were slated to visit the Philippines and Australia, but after training on Okinawa for three weeks, they boarded the USS Essex for the Persian Gulf instead. In September, they landed in Kuwait for two more weeks of training.

"I was glad when we got off the ship and no longer had to wonder if we might or might not ever deploy," said Sgt. Jose Maynes, a personnel chief with Headquarters and Services Company.

Two weeks of training turned into a month, and then the battalion was passed word that it would be used in the impending battle for Fallujah.

"I was surprised when they told us," said Maynes. "I didn't actually



Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook

Two days before entering the city of Fallujah for Operation Al Fajr, Marines with 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, run urban warfare tactics as Amphibious Assault Vehicles receive last minute maintenance checks.

think we'd make it to Iraq. Third Marines never go anywhere."

After more training in Iraq, 1/3 prepared to enter the city of Fallujah Nov. 8.

"We're as ready as we're going to be," said Cpl. Robert Gallop, third fire team leader for 1st squad, 3rd Platoon, Company C. "I just hope all

of the training for this operation has prepared us enough for what we're about to face."

Stopping less than a mile outside the city, 1/3 dug in, waiting for night-fall, when their assault on the city would begin.

"I'm trying not to think of any worst case scenarios," said Lance Cpl.

Jared Jacquinot, a rifleman with 3rd Platoon, Company C. "I feel confident because my fire team and I have gone the extra mile to get ourselves ready. There's no going back now."

When the battle began, the Marines of 1/3 fought insurgents day

See 1/3, A-8

Hawaii honors fallen Marine

Sgt. Danielle M. Bacon
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Overcast skies mirrored the somber hearts of Hawaii residents and Marines as they mourned the loss of one their own.



MAGAOAY

Pearl City native, Lance Cpl. Blake Magaoay, 20, died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, Nov. 29, according to a Department of Defense press release. He was assigned to the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Magaoay joined the Marine Corps Aug. 28, 2002, shortly after graduating from Pearl City High School.

Magaoay is the 46th service member with Hawaii ties to die in Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait since March 2003. Eight were born in

See MAGAOAY, A-7

'Day of Infamy' attacks remembered

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

As a light rain misted down on the Marines and Sailors in uniform, a rainbow shined through the clouds, creating a brilliant double arc above the flagpole to shed a bit of beauty on a somber ceremony held in remembrance of those who lost their lives here 63 years ago Tuesday.

December 7, 1941, a date known to Americans as a "day of infamy," has become a time of reflection and prayer as the anniversary of the tragic day Hawaii was attacked by the Japanese Imperial Navy aircraft.

Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, spoke at the ceremony, reflecting on the loss of 18 U.S. Navy Sailors and one civilian contractor during the two-wave attack on Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay and how the lives of surviving military members then serving in Hawaii were changed forever by the attacks at here and elsewhere on Oahu.

A 21-gun salute was performed by a rifle detail immediately following the presentation of a colorful wreath, provided by the Kaneohe Klippers Association. Then the 19 names listed on the Kaneohe Klippers monument were read in remembrance.

As it had begun, the ceremony concluded in prayer

— for those attending the ceremony, those who lost their lives and those who are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan today.

Unbeknownst to many, the first wave of attacking Japanese aircraft hit NAS Kaneohe about eight minutes prior to the assault on Pearl Harbor. According to historical documents, shortly before 8 a.m., a squadron of 12 Japanese "VAL" dive-bombers came flying in off the seaward (north) side of Mokapu Peninsula, beginning what would turn out to be a 10-minute strike on the station. U.S. Sailors scrambled to arm themselves and return fire.

A second wave of bombers swooped down over the station about 25 minutes later, dropping 100-pound bombs and strafing the area. Hangar 1, suffered a direct hit and burst into flames. In all, 33 planes were destroyed — on the ramps, in the water and in the



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

See REMEMBER, A-5



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Above — Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III, commanding general, MCB Hawaii, assisted in placing a wreath beside the Kaneohe Klippers memorial Dec. 7. Above left — A rainbow appeared through the clouds at the ceremony in remembrance of the tragic events that took place 63 years ago and the men who lost their lives.

A hero's sacrifice Comrade dies saving brothers

Lance Cpl. T.J. Kaemmerer
1st Force Service Support Group

FALLUJAH, Iraq — "You're still here, don't forget that. Tell your kids, your grandkids, what Sgt. Peralta did for you and the other Marines today."

As a combat correspondent, I was attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment for Operation Al Fajr, to make sure the stories of heroic actions and the daily realities of battle were told.

On this day, I found myself without my camera. With the batteries dead, I decided

to leave the camera behind and live up to the ethos "every Marine a rifleman," by volunteering to help clear the fateful buildings that lined the streets.

After seven days of intense fighting in Fallujah, the Marines of 1/3 embraced a new day with a faceless enemy.

We awoke Nov. 15, around day-break in the abandoned, battle-worn house we had made our home for the night. We shaved, ate breakfast from a Meal, Ready-to-Eat pouch and waited for the word to move.

The word came, and we started what we had done since the operation began — clear the city of insurgents, building by building.

As an attachment to the unit, I had been placed as the third man in a six-man group, or what Marines call a 'stack.' Two stacks of Marines were used to clear a house. Moving quickly from the third house to the fourth, our order in the stack changed. I found Sgt. Rafael Peralta in

my spot, so I fell in behind him as we moved toward the house.

A Mexican-American who lived in San Diego, Peralta earned his citizenship after he joined the Marine Corps. He was a platoon scout, which meant he could have stayed back in safety while the squads of 1st Platoon went into the danger-filled streets, but he was constantly asking to help out by giving them an extra Marine. I learned by speaking with him and other Marines the night before he frequently put his safety, reputation and career on the line for the needs and morale of the junior Marines around him.

When we reached the fourth house, we breached the gate and swiftly approached the building. The first Marine in the stack kicked in the front door, revealing a locked door to their front and another at the right.

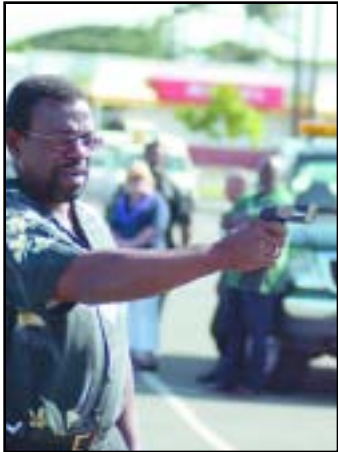
Kicking in the doors simultaneously,

See PERALTA, A-8

Safety gets SIDNE

Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards
Combat Correspondent

A simulated impaired driving experience device gives Base Safety a better way to train. The new device will



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Bill Millie, safety specialist, Base Safety Center, holds the hand held controller that acts as the driver in impaired mode.

help give users a more realistic feel for the dangers of driving while impaired.

"SIDNE is basically an electrical powered go-kart that has room for a driver and a passenger," said Mario Diprete, base traffic safety specialist. "The beauty of this is it is remote controlled by one of the safety specialists. The driver will be asked to negotiate an obstacle course in normal mode."

According to Diprete, at some point during the course the instructor will flip the switch to impaired mode and the cart simulates the effects of someone driving impaired. The steering, braking and acceleration are all time delayed so the driver's inputs aren't exact. The driver, as well as the passenger, feels the effects of someone driving

See SIDNE, A-6



PERALTA

NEWS BRIEFS

Community Meeting Postponed

The commanding general's informational meeting scheduled for Dec. 15 has been postponed until further notice.

McDonald's To Rebuild

On Dec. 31, McDonald's aboard Kaneohe Bay will close for approximately 120 days. During that time, the existing building will be torn down and construction will begin on a new structure.

Oahu Star to Print over Holidays

This is the last issue of the *Hawaii Marine* for 2004. Residents will receive the *Oahu Military Star* as a replacement for three weeks. To submit input for publication, send information to editor@hawaiimarine.com. The *Hawaii Marine* will resume printing Jan. 7, 2005.

Base Post Office Extends Hours

To better serve the community during the Christmas season, the MCB Hawaii Post Office will be open for extended holiday hours until Dec. 23. The hours of operation will be Mon. – Fri. from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sat. from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If you have questions, please call the MCB Hawaii Post Office at 257-2008.

Mokapu Gate Lanes Change

Both inbound and outbound traffic through the Mokapu (back) gate are using the incoming lanes only to allow construction work to be done on the outbound lanes as part of the final phase of the Mokapu gate improvements project. By Christmas, all traffic lanes should be reopened and normal traffic patterns restored.

USO Seeks Care Package Sponsors

The United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO) is enlisting support of individuals around the world to support the troops through Operation USO Care Package. These packages are being delivered to members of the U.S. Armed Forces deployed around the world to show them they have not been forgotten and to provide a touch of home.

With a donation of \$25 you can sponsor a care package and include a personal message of support and encouragement. These USO Care Packages, at minimum, include requested items such as pre-paid worldwide phone cards, sunscreen, travel size toiletries, disposable cameras and a message from the donor thanking them for their service and sacrifice.

For more information, visit www.usocares.org.

Read the Hawaii Marine Online

To access the *Hawaii Marine* online, log on to www.mcbh.usmc.mil and click on the "Find out more in the *Hawaii Marine*" link. The current newspaper, as well as past issues are available.

CG Invites Input

The commanding general of MCB Hawaii would like to hear your comments regarding:

- What we are doing we shouldn't be doing;
- What we are not doing we should be doing; and
- What we should be doing better.

Your responses should include a recommended solution.

E-mail your suggestions to the commanding general at CGMAIL@mcbh.usmc.mil.

If you don't have an e-mail account, fax your suggestions to 257-3290, or mail them to:

Commanding General (Attn: CG Mail)
MCB Hawaii
Box 63002
MCB Kaneohe Bay, HI 96863-3002

Your suggestions can also be dropped off in person on base at the Adjutant's office in Building 216, Room 1.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Medal approved for wear

Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — The Marines in Hawaii have supported the Global War on Terrorism for three years now, and now they are being recognized for their efforts.

A revision concerning the recipients of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, which was approved by President George W. Bush March 12, 2003, was released in Marine Administrative Message 499/04, Nov. 16.

All Marines qualify for the blue, red, yellow and white striped medal right away, with the exception of Marines in initial accession training, such as recruits, officer candidates, students at the School of Infantry, the Basic School or student naval aviators, or Marines in follow-on military occupation schools. The eligibility begins once Marines are assigned to their first unit.

For example, a Marine who graduated boot camp and completed initial training last week checked into his unit and was

immediately deployed to Iraq. He would rate the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal after 30 days, but not the service medal.

However, once he returned to his unit and was there 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days he would rate the service medal.

Marines who served in Airport Security Operations, from Sept. 27, 2001 to May 31, 2002, or Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom also qualify for the service medal, according to the MARADMIN. Marines should be assigned, attached or mobilized in the continental United States or overseas to a unit participating in or in support (including indirect support) of approved operations, or meet one of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in actual combat regardless of time in the operation.
- Be killed, wounded or injured requiring medical evacuation from the operation regardless of time.

Marines may receive both the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Global

War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, if they meet the requirements for both awards. However, the qualifying period for one can't be used for the other.

Due to the indefinite nature of terrorism and its global expanse, there is no precise measure or standard of participation or support directly or indirectly that qualifies a unit or individual for this award, according to MARADMIN 499/04. Therefore, the commandant of the Marine Corps approved the GWOTSM for Marines who meet the above criteria at following commands and organizational levels:

- Headquarters Marine Corps
- All operating forces
- Supporting establishments
- External elements

Marines who were honorably discharged without further obligated service or retired after Sept. 11, 2001, should submit their request along with a copy of their DD form 214 to:

Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps
Military Awards Branch
3280 Russell Road
Quantico, Va. 22134-5103

Marines who were discharged from active duty with obligated service must submit their request to:

Marine Corps Mobilization Branch
15303 Andrews Road
Kansas City, Mo. 64147-1207

For more information, Marines should contact their administrative office or visit www.awards.manpower.usmc.mil.



Lost and found items put to good use

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Combat Correspondent

The Military Police Department is not just responsible for keeping the peace and insuring the safety of the community on base. The Marines and civilian Marines

involved in the department are in charge of a plethora of duties. One of the lesser-known jobs not only gives back to the base community, but also helps out people around the island of Oahu.

The members of the Military Police Department's Lost and Found dedicate their



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Sgt. Oliver M. Avila, crime prevention specialist, PMO, helps Al Apodaca, Ewa site coordinator for the "Weed and Seed Program," load up bicycles donated from the lost and found office Monday.

time to crime prevention, physical security, and figuring out what to do with lost and found items. In fact, without the MP's program, the Honolulu Police Department's "Weed and Seed Program" would not receive many of the bikes they use to put on safety shows and educate school children with.

Items left in the lost and found office for more than 120 days are either destroyed or given to the Base Thrift Store or HPD's Weed and Seed

Program units. Items such as baby seats, clothes and cameras are taken to the thrift store, while bicycles and scooters are given to HPD to salvage and use in their program.

"The Weed and Seed Program is a non-funded program that was created to give students some-

thing positive to do," said Daryl K. Picadura, community services coordinator, Provost Marshalls Office. "The program takes donated bikes to different schools and allows the students to refurbish them to be used in safety presentations. It is a really positive program."

Monday, eight bikes and three scooters were donated to the program from the lost and found office here. This was the third time this year donations were made from the base to benefit the program.

"We take pride in the fact that we are not only benefitting the base community, but also the surrounding community by making these donations," said Master Sgt. Dean Jordan, services chief, Provost Marshalls Office.

Although the items not claimed are put to good use, residents who have lost items are urged to call PMO before they give up hope of getting their things back.

"We encourage people to call and ask about something they've lost," said Sgt. Oliver M. Avila, crime prevention specialist, Physical Security Department, PMO. "All they have to do is describe what they have lost and if we have it, they can come right over and pick it up."

According to Picadura, there are roughly five or six Weed and Seed units around the island, so the demand for bikes is high.

"The more bicycles the program receives, the more work the students have to do," he said, "which means they will be doing something constructive with their time. That is the goal of the program."

For more information on the program or to ask about a lost item, call Sgt. Oliver Avila at 257-8556.

Word on the street

"If you could ask for one thing for Christmas, what would you want?"



Cpl. Rafael Astacio
Food Service Specialist
Headquarters Battalion,
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay

"To go on leave to see my family in New York."



Sgt. Maj. George Espinosa
Company Sergeant Major
Headquarters Company,
3rd Marine Regiment

"I would want to be able to celebrate Christmas with my friends, especially those who are deployed."



Cpl. Ryan Tellez
Food Service Specialist
Headquarters Battalion,
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay

"I would want a genie in a lamp. Then I would wish for world peace."



Miti Utuutuvanu
Customer Service Clerk
Wiki Wiki Mart

"Peace for everyone and for those fighting overseas to be with their families."



Lance Cpl. Mike Stanley
Infantryman
2nd Battalion,
3rd Marine Regiment

"I would want to go home to Missouri."

Hawaii MARINE

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Base Sergeant Major
Public Affairs Officer
Public Affairs Chief
Managing Editor
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Sports Editor/Press Chief
Staff Writer
Lifestyles Editor
News Editor

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Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks
Maj. Patricia Johnson
Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia
Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland
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Sgt. Joseph Lee
Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Cpl. Rich Mattingly
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Susana Choy
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Submit items for the *Hawaii Marine* to PAO no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following addresses:

HAWAII MARINE, BOX 63062, BLDG. 216,
MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863
E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIIMARINE.COM
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8836

DUIs are career killers

(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the *Hawaii Marine* newspaper.)

•Nov. 17, a base resident, for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of .17 percent.

•Dec. 4, Lance Cpl. Heather L. Albert of 3rd Marine Regiment, for DUI with a BAC of .134 percent.

SHOOT, MOVE, COMMUNICATE

1/12 Devil Dogs signal fire missions

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS, Waimanalo — Up on a hill sits a stealthy forward observer, carefully taking notes and writing down coordinates to send back to his command. Once he has gathered enough information, he uses a small transmit-

ter device and types in all the knowledge he has of the enemy's positions and sends the info back to his command to review and base decisions on. The command element uses the information to decide what battery is closest to the objective and what kind of power it will take to destroy it. After their plan is approved by a fire support coordination center, the information is then sent to the battery or Fire Direction Center (FDC) and the orders are carried out. After the equipment is set up, they wait for the first bit of communication to come through the line — patiently at first, but then the anticipation builds, until suddenly they

have communication. The coordinates come through the radio and the chaos begins. Marines from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment shout numbers and commands at one another for nearly a minute until rounds are fired and the objective is destroyed. Mission accomplished; time to wait again. The Marines in a battery are the sole individuals responsible for taking out an objective sighted by a forward observer. The mission may be simple, but the process is far from easy. From the point when the observer radios in coordinates to the final seconds when the objective is destroyed can be a lengthy process.

Before any coordinates are sent, the Marines had to set up their antennas and radios and build their FDC to ensure all aspects of the Command Post Exercise could be carried out. The Marines' primary means of digital communication is an Enhanced Position Location Reporting System (EPLRS). "The EPLRS runs off a beacon signal and acts like a sort of e-mail," said Sgt. Fred L. Graves, operations chief, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment. "Its main responsibility is to transfer information on unit locations to other EPLRS's."

The information transferred by the EPLRS comes from a computer system known as an Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFADTS). The AFADTS transmits information about fire missions back and forth from a regimental level to battery level.

The Marines took roughly four hours to set up their FDC and get into positions to await communication and orders. In a real war scenario the cannoneers would be equipped with guns to put coordinates into and fire at the enemy, but the main objective of the training didn't call for any fire, so they were simply equipped with gun display units which tell them the coordinates of their target.

"We are simply training to become more efficient at setting up communication and being able to move and still hold onto that line," said Graves. "There was no need to actually fire, so we just concentrated on the communication aspect."

Once the first wave of information came through the line, the Marines immediately went to work and within one minute they had sent the coordinates to the cannoneers who then pretended to fire their rounds and the cycle was complete.

Throughout the rest of the day, the FDC Marines focused on speed and accuracy. They eventually had to move their post and re-set up all their gear to begin receiving a new cycle of information.

"The concept can be confusing, but the methods are the same and the training runs smoothly once everyone knows their job," said Graves, a Lyndonville, Vt., native. "We are just out here making sure we don't have any kinks to work out."



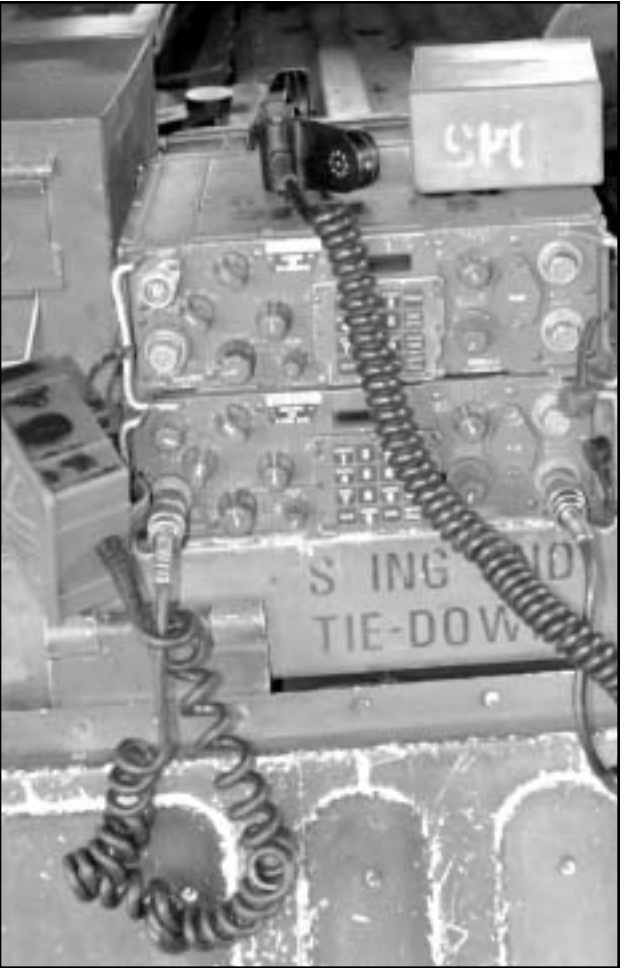
Pfc. Brian MacArthur, horizontal chart operator, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, plots coordinates of enemy objectives on a grid during a training exercise, Nov. 30, at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.



Marines sit behind Gun Display Units, simulating what they would do as cannoneers during a command post exercise. Because it was only a training exercise, the Marines only simulated shooting.



Above — Lance Cpl. Hector Velez, fire direction center communications chief, relays information from the battalion about an enemy objective during a command post exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows. Below — Lance Cpls. Eric Dye (foreground) and Toby Doffing, fire direction controllmen, wait for information to be given to them so they can begin to punch coordinates and information into the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System.



Above — To receive information from the battalion, a Marine in the fire direction center receives transmissions via antennas, using a radio such as the one shown above. Left — Marines from Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, set up one of the antennas they need to communicate with other Marines during a command post exercise in which they acted as the fire direction center.



Creating the artillery punch was a main event of the evening. Bravo Battery Executive Officer Lt. Charles A. Mallette (below left), adds one of the many ingredients before Master Sgt. Manuel Colon (above), battalion field artillery chief, mixed the concoction, which Lt. Col. Rudolph M. Janiczek, commanding officer, had the honor of drinking.



1/12 drinks to Saint Barbara

Photos and Story by
Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Combat Correspondent

Marines and guests of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment gathered at Kahuna’s Ballroom Friday for the annual St. Barbara’s Day celebration. For those who hadn’t experienced the event before, it wasn’t a night they’ll soon forget.

“St. Barbara’s night is just a good time for artillery Marines to get all dressed up, but still be able to act like fools,” said 1st Lt. Charles A. Mallette, executive officer, Bravo Battery. “Everyone seemed to have a good time and share a lot of laughs.”

From the Military Occupational Specialty Olympics to the artillery punch, the night’s events were far from any average military ceremony or celebration.

To understand the importance of the night, though, one must first understand the significance of St. Barbara.

The Legend of St. Barbara

According to Army Web site sill-www.army.mil/pao/pabarbar.htm, St. Barbara was the extremely beautiful daughter of a wealthy heathen named Dioscorus, who lived near Nicomedia in Asia Minor. Because of her beauty and the fear that she be demanded in marriage and taken away from him, Dioscorus jealously shut her up in a tower to protect her from the outside world.

Shortly before embarking on a journey, he commissioned a sumptuous bathhouse to be built for her, approving the design before he departed. Barbara had heard of the teachings of Christ, and while her father was gone she spent much time in contemplation. From the windows of her tower, she looked out upon the surrounding countryside and marveled at the growing things: the trees, the animals and the people. She soon decided that all these must be part of a master plan, and that the idols of wood and stone worshiped by her parents must be condemned as false. Gradually, she came to accept the Christian faith.

As her belief became firm, she directed the builders redesign the bathhouse her father had planned, adding another window so that the three windows might symbolize the Holy Trinity.

When her father returned, he was enraged at the changes and infuriated when Barbara acknowledged that she was a Christian. He dragged her before the prefect of the province, who decreed that she be tortured and put to death by beheading. Dioscorus himself carried out the death sentence. On his way home, he was struck by lightening and his body consumed.

Saint Barbara lived and died about the year 300 A.D. She was venerated as early as the seventh century. The legend of the lightning bolt that struck down her persecutor caused her to be regarded as the patron saint in time of danger from thunderstorms, fires and sudden death.

When gunpowder made its appearance in the Western world, St. Barbara, patroness of the artillerymen, was invoked for aid against accidents resulting from explosions — since some of the earlier artillery pieces often blew up instead of firing their projectiles.

Saint Barbara is often represented standing by a tower with three windows, carrying the palm of a martyr in her hand. The feast of St. Barbara falls on Dec. 4 and is traditionally recognized by a formal Dining-In or military dinner, often involving the presentation of the Order of St. Barbara and honorary military society of U.S. Field Artillery.

Both U.S. Marine and Army field artillery, along with their military and civilian supporters, are eligible for membership. The order is managed by the U.S. Field Artillery Association and two levels of recognition exist. The most distinguished level is the Ancient Order of St. Barbara; those who are selected for this honor have achieved long-term, exceptional service to the field artillery surpassing even their brethren in the Honorable Order of St. Barbara. The order links field artillerymen of the past and present in a brotherhood of professionalism, selfless service and sacrifice, symbolized by St. Barbara.

See **BARBARA, A-7**

Fiddler’s Green

Halfway down the trail to Hell,
In a shady meadow green
Are the Souls of all dead troopers camped,
Near a good old-time canteen.
And this eternal resting place
Is known as Fiddlers’ Green.
Marching past, straight through to Hell
The Infantry are seen.
Accompanied by the Engineers,
Artillery and Marines,
For none but the shades of Cavalrymen
Dismount at Fiddlers’ Green.
Though some go curving down the trail
To seek a warmer scene.
No trooper ever gets to Hell
Ere he’s emptied his canteen.
And so rides back to drink again
With friends at Fiddlers’ Green.
And so when man and horse go down
Beneath a saber keen,
Or in a roaring charge of fierce melee
You stop a bullet clean,
And the hostiles come to get your scalp,
Just empty your canteen,
And put your pistol to your head
And go to Fiddlers’ Green.

Bordelon Field named for Tarawa hero

Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Most Camp Smith Marines have visited Bordelon Field during their time here, but what most of them don’t know is who the man is behind the name, and the contributions he made to the Corps.



Photo Courtesy of Tarawa on the Web

BORDELON

William James Bordelon was born on Christmas Day in 1920, in San Antonio. Bordelon was the son of William Jennings Bordelon and Carmen Josephine Bordelon. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on Dec. 10, 1941. Private Bordelon made the change from civilian to Marine at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., according to the Medal of Honor website. After completing his training with the 5th Recruit Training Battalion, Bordelon was transferred to 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, also in San Diego. Promotions with the engineers came rapidly for Bordelon. He advanced to private first class Feb. 5, 1942. He was promoted to corporal less than six weeks later, on March 14. His appointment to sergeant took effect on July 10 of the same year. It was Oct. 20, 1942 when Bordelon and his company embarked into the Pacific from San Diego. On Dec. 24, 1942, Bordelon reported for duty on-board the USS President Hayes, which took him to the battle of Guadalcanal. His unit

was on the enemy-infested island from Jan. 4 to February 19, 1943, according to the MOH Web site. Bordelon was promoted to staff sergeant on May 13, 1943. He was transferred to Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Marine Regiment on Oct. 10 and one week later went aboard ship again. This time, Bordelon was assigned to the USS Zeilin. The Zeilin embarked Nov. 1, making one stop in Efate, New Hebrides. The Zeilin then arrived off enemy-held Tarawa on D-Day, Nov. 20, 1943, according to the Headquarters Marine Corps Web site. During the days’ landing, Bordelon was one of four men from his tractor to reach the beach alive. Bordelon and a buddy, Sgt. Elden Beers, went over the tractor’s side together and were immediately caught in a barbed wire entanglement. Escaping from heavy fire, the two Marines and two other Marines from their craft managed to hit the beach and secure some protection behind a four-foot seawall. In reaching the beach, the Marines lost all their equipment except a few small arms and two packages of dynamite. Quickly forming the dynamite into demolition charges, Bordelon personally put two pillboxes out of action, according to Tarawa on the Web (TOTW). Assaulting a third enemy position, Bordelon was hit by enemy machine gun fire just as one of his charges left his hand. The backlash from the charge wounded Bordelon, who was bandaged by two of his companions. Behind the seawall, the small band of Marines was still pinned down by fire, which was coming from a machine gun nest 200 yards up the beach, according to MOH. Gathering up the last of the demolition charges, Bordelon started to crawl toward the enemy gun pit. He succeeded in destroying the position. In doing so, he was again shot through the left arm. He returned to his original position and asked his men to apply a tourniquet. Taking a rifle, Bordelon provided cover fire for a group of Marines attempting to scale the wall. In the meantime, his fellow Marines tried to rescue a group of wounded Marines who were floundering in the water offshore. On their first move, another enemy machine gun pinned them down, according to TOTW. Bordelon, seeing his companions wounded, started off in search of a corpsman, but was unable to locate one. Instead, he stumbled on a rifle grenade, an attachment to the M1 rifle, which allows hand grenades to be fired from a rifle, and immediately returned to his Marines to take action against enemy machine gunners who were holding up the rescue of the wounded. As he started his next single-handed attack, a badly wounded Marine whom the surf had thrown ashore caught his attention. Immediately, going to aid the Marine, he was caught in the shoulder by a burst of enemy fire. Although he was suffering from wounds in his shoulder, his left arm, and the backlash from a demolition charge, he lunged toward the enemy gun and, employing the rifle grenade, destroyed the nest before he fell dead from a final burst of enemy fire. The Marine hero was originally buried in Lone Palm Cemetery on Betio Island, Tarawa Atoll. He was later moved to the U.S. Army Mausoleum at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, according to MOH. The Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded to Bordelon by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, “For valorous and gallant conduct above and beyond the call of duty.” Major Donald M. Taft, officer-in-charge of the San Antonio Marine Recruiting office, presented the first Medal of Honor to be awarded to a Texan during World War II to the late Marine’s mother at a ceremony at Alamo Stadium June 17, 1944, according to HQMC. San Antonio’s mayor proclaimed June 17 “Bordelon Memorial Day”. In addition to the Medal of Honor, Bordelon was also awarded (posthumously) the Purple Heart; Presidential Unit Citation; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.

Tower. Each year for the past 23 years, members of the Japan Religious Committee for World Federation have come to present wreaths and pray for peace at the Kaneohe Klipper monument and at the Iida marker placed at the crash site next to the hourly child care center. In his remarks, Trautman mentioned the alliance the U.S. now has with Japan, and how much things had changed since 1941. “We have to be optimistic, in the current war against terrorism, that our efforts will lead to positive change, just as the efforts of the fallen here at Kaneohe and elsewhere throughout the Pacific did with Japan during World War II.”

PEARL HARBOR, From A-1

hangars, leaving in commission only the three that were out on patrol at the time of the attack. The U.S. “Warriors of Kaneohe” returned fire using machine guns yanked from burning aircraft and quickly propped on temporary mounts. Led by Chief Aviation Ordnanceman John Finn of VP-14, they were the first U.S. defenders to down a Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. Lieutenant Fusata Iida’s plane crashed into the northwest side of Pu’u Hawaii Loa, below what was then Baker (now called Kansas)



Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth

Bordelon Field aboard Camp H.M. Smith was named after William James Bordelon, a Medal of Honor recipient for actions during the battle for Tarawa.



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Members of the Japan Religious Committee for World Federation pay their respects to Lt. Fusata Iida, a Japanese pilot who crashed during the bombing of NAS Kaneohe Bay, Dec. 7, 1941. The members have been coming here on Dec. 7 for the past 23 years to pray and visit the crash site.

Marines maintain weapons where it matters the most

Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook
1 Marine Expeditionary Force

FALLUJAH, Iraq — In a combat environment, pulling the trigger on your weapon when engaging the enemy and hearing only a click is something no Marine wishes to experience. The Marines of 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, feel the same way. At every available opportunity they focus on the upkeep of their weapons. “I go over the internal components around three times a day for 30 to 45 minutes each session more out of fear than anything else,” said

Cpl. Bryan Morales, 1st fire team, 1st squad team leader. “It’s a worry of mine that it’ll jam. I’ve already had two dreams where I was in a fire fight and it jammed, so that pushed me to clean it even more.” Members of 3rd Platoon say the worst case scenario is being a point man in a building and having a double-feed or jam when encountering insurgents. While they drilled for that happening, nothing is foolproof. “I stress to my fire team to makes sure [their weapon is] always good to go,” said Morales. “They clean their weapon every time I do and so far no one’s rifle has jammed.”



Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook

A Marine with 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sits on a rooftop in Fallujah cleaning the magazine well of his M-16A2 service rifle after finishing a four-hour shift on post.

SIDNE, From A-1

impaired. Diprete believes the cart is very beneficial to the people who will partake in what can be learned from the experience. “The cart is manufactured by the same company that manufactures the fatal vision goggles; basically, what they have done is take it to the next level,” he said. “The goggles are good in their own right and they are a good tool we use during the drivers’ improvement course and Basic Rider Course for motorcycles, but the cart has allowed for more user input.” Once the staff has been fully trained on the functions of the SIDNE, it will be available to the tenant units aboard MCB Hawaii for safety stand downs and demonstrations on request.



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Petty Officer 1st Class, Quinn Bailey, ground safety officer, MALS-24, goes for a spin in the SIDNE, feeling what it’s like to be under the influence and behind the wheel.

Although the Marines of 3rd Platoon clean their weapons several times throughout the day, dust from the desert environment tends to find its way into the tiniest of crevices. “My weapon has to be spotless, even though I know it’ll get dirty a few minutes later,” said Lance Cpl. Jorge Jerez, a squad automatic weapon gunner with 3rd Platoon. “In this environment, even if you don’t run around, dirt still seems drawn to it.” During Marine Corps recruit training, Marines are taught to clean weapons with a light coat of CLP (cleaner lubricant protectant) and some good “ol’ fashioned elbow grease,” but each individual has his or her own routine of upkeep. “For me, it always goes bolt, chamber, 203 breach, both trigger mechanisms and finally a quick brush down on everything else,” said Morales. “I also pay particular attention to the magazine well because it could slip out if dirt gets up in there.” For other Marines, their cleaning goes from the outside in. “I go over the main body and spot check it, then the barrel, bolt and sights,” said Jerez. “People count on me to lay down the heavy fire, so my weapon needs to be more than functional.” Because their mentality to keep their weapon clean was ingrained back in the rear, long before their deployment, their command hasn’t had to ask once for its Marines to touch up their equipment. “Every Marine in Charlie Company is being proactive when it comes to maintaining weapons standards,” said Gunnery Sgt. James Sanders, company gunnery sergeant. “They know there could be a mishap without proper maintenance. When they’re off post, they take care of their weapons first and then themselves.” Overall, when the Marines of 3rd Platoon




Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook

Cpl. Bryan Morales, 1st fire team, 1st squad team leader with 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sits, cleaning the components of his M-203 grenade launcher before heading out to clear a suspected insurgent stronghold.


are in Fallujah, getting a good night sleep, having a belly full of chow or being completely hydrated comes in a distant second to a clean weapon. “All of the time I’ve spent cleaning my rifle probably amounts to a few weeks of my life, but for the situation we’re in now, it’s well worth it,” said Morales. “Weapons maintenance over here is priority. It’s on the same level as getting water and chow. That’s what it boils down to.”

first impressions



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Top 20 ‘must haves’ keep troops safe, comfortable

Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook
1 Marine Expeditionary Force

FALLUJAH, Iraq — After coming out of a combat zone, many Marines commented on the items they’re glad they brought with them. The following list includes 20 “must have” items of Marines from 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, during Operation Al Fajr:

- 1. Advanced combat optical gun sight/binoculars:** “When you’re on post, you can tell what individuals walking down the street (blocks away) are carrying,” said Cpl. Michael Fredtkou, a M-203 gunner. “The enemy doesn’t expect you to see them that far away.”

2. Energy bars: “They’re lightweight, easy to get to,” said Staff Sgt. Luis Lopez, 3rd Platoon sergeant. “Plus they’re not as bulky as [meals-ready-to-eat].”

3. Kevlar cushions: “The old padding gives you a headache after wearing it for a few hours,” said 1st Lt. Travis Fuller, 3rd Platoon commander. “After a few minutes with the cushions on, you can’t even tell it’s there.”

4. Elbow/knee pads: “If it wouldn’t be for these things, my knees would be completely cut up by now,” said Lance Cpl. Tim Riffe, a machinegunner. “You can only take so much jumping into a defensive position without them.”

5. Personal Role Radio: “Communication has been a huge key in our operations,” said Cpl. Tyrone Wilson, 2nd squad leader. “When my squad was across the

- street in a defensive position, the platoon was able to let me know insurgents were in the building next to us. Who knows what would’ve happened if they couldn’t contact me.”

6. Global Positioning System: “I’m able to pinpoint our location within 10 meters when calling in position reports and medevacs,” said Lance Cpl. William Woolley, a radio operator. “We’ll never get lost as long as we have it.”

7. Extra socks: “My feet are nice and dry right now,” said Lance Cpl. Kaleb Welch, a squad automatic weapon (SAW) gunner. “I’ve gone without changing my socks before on three- to four-day training exercises and I always regretted it later.”

8. Gloves: “They’re clutch because when you’re climbing over a wall you don’t have to worry about broken glass cutting your hands,” said Cpl. Gabriel Trull, 1st squad leader. “You also don’t burn your hands when changing 240 golf barrels.”

9. Baby wipes: “It’s a multi-use piece of gear,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Irving Ochoa, a Navy Corpsman. “You don’t have much time out here for personal hygiene, so it’s the best alternative.”

10. Three-point sling: “When you’re jumping over

- rooftops, you don’t want to worry about dropping your weapon,” said Cpl. Dave Willis, 3rd squad leader. “At any time you can just reach down and grab it.”

11. ALICE/day pack: “Without these I don’t know how I’d carry all of my gear,” said Lance Cpl. Geoffery Bivins, a SAW gunner. “It displaces all of the weight around my body, so I’m not uncomfortable. When you’re running with 100 pounds on your back, that’s important.”

12. Night Vision Goggles: “Wearing these at night gives you the advantage over the enemy,” said Lance Cpl. Marquirez Chavery, a combat engineer. “When you’re on a rooftop at night, you can see everything.”

13. Personal hydration system: “Water is one of the things you always need to make sure you have,” said Seaman Hugo Lara, a Navy corpsman. “Instead of struggling to get your canteens out, the cord is there within your reach. Plus, it holds more water.”

14. Watch with compass: “You get calls where you have to lay down suppressing fire in a certain direction and instead of wasting time to ask which way is north or south, you can just look at your wrist,” said Lance Cpl. Lonny Kelly, a machinegunner. “Knowing the time is important because everyone pulls shifts for guard duty or standing post. How would you know when your shift starts or stops without one?”

15. AA batteries: “You use them for your NVGs and hand-held radios, both which contribute to more effective

- fighting,” said Cpl. Bryan Morales, 1st squad, 1st fire team, team leader. “You wouldn’t want either of those items dying on you, so having a spare set of batteries around is very important.”

16. Poncho/poncho liner: “The temperature at night is extremely different during the day,” said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Etterling, machinegun team leader. “If you don’t have some sort of protection at night, you end up freezing because your cammies are still damp from sweating during the day.”

17. Ballistic goggles: “I was the A-driver in one of our convoys and we got hit by an [improvised explosive device],” said Lance Cpl. Anthony Johnson, an assaultman. “Shrapnel bounced off of my glasses, saving my vision.”

18. Multi-purpose portable tool kit: “It’s like carrying a combat knife, hammer and screwdriver in one hand,” said Lance Cpl. Evan Fernandez, an assaultman. Cutting open MREs, cleaning your weapon, tightening screws on your gear; it has a thousand uses.”

19. Carabineers: “Anything that you might have to grab at a moment’s notice, you don’t want to be digging through your pockets to try and find it,” said Pfc. Jason Kurtz, a SAW gunner. “With these you can attach anything to your flak and have it right at your fingertips.”

20. High-powered flashlight: “It does wonders,” said Cpl. Chris Williams, 2nd squad, 1st fire team leader. “After you throw a fragmentation grenade into a room it’s difficult to see because of all the dust floating around. No one can hide from them.”

BARBARA, From A-4

This year three Marines from 1/12 were inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Barbara; Capt. Gregory G. Seaman, Alpha Battery commander, Capt. Thomas W. Parker, Bravo Battery commander, and Chief Warrant Officer Gary Schmidt, survey and meteorological officer, all received pewter medallions to honor their service and dedication. Four spouses were also inducted into the Order of Molly Pitcher. Tonya Cordero, Jenine Kesterson, Debbie Trenker and Stephanie Bowman, all members of the Key Volunteer Network, were inducted in the ceremony.

“It was a huge honor for the Marines and spouses who were inducted into both orders,” said Mallette, who has attended two previous ceremonies. “For the wives, it is a symbol of their dedication and service to their husbands and the Key Volunteer Network — service that rarely receives recognition. For the Marines, now they wear a pewter medallion around their neck and when another artillery Marine sees that, he recognizes that the Marine wearing it knows what he is doing. It is a mark of distinction.”

Other activities, besides the inductions, included MOS Olympics, starring five lieutenants from 1/12. The Marines portrayed over-exaggerated stereotypical characters of an aviator, a grunt, a communication Marine, an executive officer and an artillery Marine. The lieutenants played out their characters throughout the Olympic events. The events included a spelling bee and the lighting of the torch (which was interrupted by a mullet-sporting Base Safety soldier). The final event was a marathon around the ballroom. The marathon was won by the artillery Marine after the aviator stopped for cocktail hour and the grunt sat down to eat his MRE.

“It is customary for the lieutenants to perform a skit on St. Barbara’s night,” said Mallette. “This year, the Olympics gave them the ability to make fun of themselves and their uppers without getting in trouble. They all had a great time doing it, too.”

After the Olympics concluded, “artillery punch” was created by mixing various ingredients including a wheel of wire, a tire and a primer, amongst other things. Once the concoction was stirred up, Lt. Col. Rudolph M. Janizcek, commanding officer, 1/12, was invited to say a few words

and drink a goblet of the punch. Shenanigans aside, several toasts were given by Marines, ending in a traditional toast of artillery punch to St. Barbara. The ritual reading of “Fiddler’s Green,” a poem about the final resting place of artillerymen, was then read, concluding the evening’s ceremony.

MAGAOAY, From A-1

Hawaii or lived here for a long time. A private wake will be held Sunday, at Borthwick Mortuary. The burial will be held at 1 p.m., Monday, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.” Magaoay is survived by his father, Tony, mother, Gina Ellis-Williams, and a stepbrother, Octavio Rosas.

Factoid


Semper Fidelis was adopted around 1883 as the motto of the Corps. Before that, there had been three mottoes, all traditional rather than official.

1/3, From A-1

and night, only resting to plan out their next move as they made their way through the city. “It’s hard, but we all had to adapt and overcome,” said Cpl. Jake Zilliani, a M-203 gunner with 3rd Platoon, Company C. “The first few nights I didn’t get any sleep, but your body gets used to it. It’ll be nice to take the flak off when we get back to the rear. Since we sleep with it on, it doesn’t seem to weigh anything anymore.”

The Marines with 1/3 also had to deal with a lack of food. “There wasn’t any time to eat,” said Lance Cpl. Braden Newton, a machine gunner attached to 3rd Platoon, Company C. “Since I was only getting half my normal intake of chow, my stomach shrank. Two or three MREs (meals-ready-to-eat) a day was plenty after that.”

After a month, the Marines of 1/3 continue to fight throughout the city, waging war with insurgents. “This battalion has done some outstanding things,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael Berg, 1/3’s sergeant major. “This fight will go down in the history books, so they’re glad to be a part of this and proud of what they’ve done. We showed everyone what we’re all about and proved that 3rd Marines are able to take the fight to the enemy just as good as anyone else.”



Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook

While searching an insurgent stronghold, a Marine with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, tears away a poster and discovers an AK-47 hidden in an opening in the wall.

PERALTA, From A-1

one stack filed swiftly into the room to the front as the other group of Marines darted off to the right. “Clear!” screamed the Marines in one of the rooms, followed only seconds later by another shout of “Clear!” from the second room. One word told us all we wanted to know about the rooms: there was no one in there to shoot at us.

We found that the two rooms were adjoined and we had another closed door in front of us. We spread ourselves throughout the rooms to avoid a cluster going through the next door. Two Marines stacked to the left of the door as Peralta, rifle in hand, tested the handle. I watched from the middle, slightly off to the right of the room as the handle turned with ease.

Ready to rush into the rear part of the house, Peralta threw open the door. ‘POP! POP! POP!’ Multiple bursts of cap-gun-like sounding AK-47 fire rang throughout the house.

Three insurgents with AK-47s were waiting for us behind the door.

Peralta was hit several times in his upper torso and face at point-blank range by the fully-automatic 7.62mm weapons employed by three terrorists.

Mortally wounded, he jumped into the already cleared, adjoining room, giving the rest of us a clear line of fire through the doorway to the rear of the house.

We opened fire, adding the bangs of M-16A2 service rifles, and the deafening, rolling cracks of a Squad Automatic Weapon, or “SAW,” to the already nerve-racking sound of the AKs. One Marine was shot through the forearm and continued to fire at the enemy.

I fired until Marines closer to the door began to maneuver into better firing positions, blocking my line of fire. Not being an infantryman, I watched to see what those with more extensive training were doing.

I saw four Marines firing from the adjoining room when a yellow, foreign-made, oval-shaped grenade bounced into the room, rolling to a stop close to Peralta’s nearly lifeless body.

In an act living up to the heroes of the Marine Corps’ past, such as Medal of Honor recipients Pfc. James LaBelle and Lance Cpl. Richard Anderson, Peralta — in his last fleeting moments of consciousness — reached out and pulled the grenade into his body. LaBelle fought on Iwo Jima and Anderson in Vietnam, both died saving their fellow Marines by

smothering the blast of enemy grenades. Peralta did the same for all of us in those rooms.

I watched in fear and horror as the other four Marines scrambled to the corners of the room and the majority of the blast was absorbed by Peralta’s now lifeless body. His selflessness left four other Marines with only minor injuries from smaller fragments of the grenade.

During the fight, a fire was sparked in the rear of the house. The flames were becoming visible through the door.

The decision was made by the Marine in charge of the squad to evacuate the injured Marines from the house, regroup and return to finish the fight and retrieve Peralta’s body.

We quickly ran for shelter, three or four houses up the street, in a house that had already been cleared and was occupied by the squad’s platoon.

As Staff Sgt. Jacob M. Murdock took a count of the Marines coming back, he found it to be one man short, and demanded to know the whereabouts of the missing Marine. “Sergeant Peralta! He’s dead! He’s f--- dead,” screamed Lance Cpl. Adam Morrison, a machine gunner with the squad, as he came around a corner. “He’s still in there. We have to go back.”

The ingrained code Marines have of never leaving a man behind drove the next few moments. Within seconds, we headed back to the house, not knowing what we might encounter, yet ready for another round.

I don’t remember walking back down the street or through the gate in front of the house, but walking through the door the second time, I prayed we wouldn’t lose another brother.

We entered the house and met no resistance. We couldn’t clear the rest of the house because the fire had grown immensely and the danger of the enemy’s weapons cache exploding in the house was increasing by the second.

Most of us provided security while Peralta’s body was removed from the house.

We carried him back to our rally point and upon returning were told the other Marines who went to sup-

port us encountered and killed the three insurgents from inside the house.

Later that night, while I was thinking about the day’s somber events, Cpl. Richard A. Mason, an infantryman with Headquarters Platoon, who, in the short time I was with the company became a good friend, told me, “You’re still here, don’t forget that. Tell your kids, your grandkids, what Sgt. Peralta did for you and the other Marines today.”

As a combat correspondent, this is not only my job, but an honor.

Throughout Operation Al Fajr, we were constantly being told we were making history, but if the books never mention this battle in the future, I’m sure that the day and the sacrifice that was made, will never be forgotten by the Marines who were there.



Cpl. Edward R. Guevara Jr.

Navy Chaplain (Cmdr.) Robert D. Delis places a cross in the hand of Rosa Maria Peralta, Sgt. Rafael Peralta’s mother, after her son’s body is laid to rest at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery Nov. 23.